

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00218 102118Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 INR-07
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FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1013
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, BEXP, CA
SUBJECT: QUEBEC'S INTEREST IN US GROWS

1. GOQ HAS ANNOUNCED RECENTLY ITS INTENTION TO OPEN A "DELEGATION" IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA. THIS NEW QUEBEC REPRESENTATION IN THE US WILL SUPPLEMENT ACTIVITIES OF EXISTING DELEGATIONS IN BOSTON, NEW YORK, LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA, DALLAS, LOS ANGELES AND CHICAGO. THE PURPOSE OF THE NEW DELEGATION IS TO PROVIDE QUEBEC GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION IN AN AREA OF "GROWING ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE." THE ATLANTA DELEGATION WILL HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENCOURAGING TRADE, INVESTMENT, TOURISM AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE IN THE REGION SOUTH OF WASHINGTON, D.C. AND EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

2. A FURTHER MOVE TO BOLSTER THE QUALITY OF QUEBEC REPRESENTATION IN THE UNITED STATES IS THE ASSIGNMENT OF MARCEL BERGERON AS DELEGATE GENERAL IN NEW YORK. MR. BERGERON IS ONE OF GOQ'S SENIOR SPECIALISTS IN TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL AFFAIRS. AT PRESENT, HE OCCUPIES THE POST OF DEPUTY UNDERMINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY. PREVIOUSLY, HE SERVED FOR FOUR YEARS AS QUEBEC'S DELEGATE IN MILAN, ITALY.
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PAGE 02 QUEBEC 00218 102118Z

EM FOR THE FUTURE, I WAS INFORMED PRIVATELY BY MINISTER OF INTERGOVERN-
MENTAL AFFAIRS, CLAUDE MORIN, THAT GOQ IS CONSIDERING OPENING AN OFFICE
IN WASHINGTON "DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY" TO THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF TOURISM.
MORIN ASSURED ME THAT PREMISES WOULD BE IN A "CLASSIC STORE

FRONT" IN DOWNTOWN WASHINGTON SIMILAR TO OTHER TOURIST OFFICES IN THAT CITY.

4. THE GROWING NUMBER OF PUBLIC APPEARANCES BEING MADE IN US BY QUEBEC MINISTERS IS A FURTHER INDICATION OF IMPORTANCE QUEBEC PLACES ON ITS RELATIONS WITH U.S. DURING PAST MONTH ALONE CLAUDE MORIN HAS SPOKEN IN BOSTON AND WORCHESTER, MASS. AND IS PLANNING A WEST COAST TOUR LATER IN YEAR WITH SPEECHES IN SAN FRANCISCO AND LOS ANGELES BEFORE WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS "FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCILS." OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CABINET ALSO MAKE FREQUENT VISITS TO U.S., OFTEN WITHOUT ANY LOCAL NOTICE BEING GIVEN TO THEIR ACTIVITIES.

5. THIS PATTERN OF CLOSE RELATIONS WITH U.S. IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE AND MAY INTENSIFY AS GOQ ATTEMPTS GAIN GREATER UNDERSTANDING FOR ITS POINT OF VIEW AMONG CITIZENS OF ITS NEAREST NEIGHBOR AND AS ITS HIGH DEGREE OF ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE ON U.S. ENCOURAGES AN AGGRESSIVE POLICY OF PROMOTION OF TRADE, INVESTMENT AND TOURISM.
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